

HOUSE BILL 556

By Fitzhugh

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 50, relative to authorizing an electronic driver license system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 50, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

55-50-306.

(a) The department of safety is authorized to develop a secure and uniform system, to be known as the “electronic driver license system,” for authorizing persons to present or submit evidence of a valid driver license in an optional electronic format in lieu of a physical driver license. An acceptable electronic format includes display of electronic images on a cellular telephone or any other type of portable electronic device. The department may contract with one (1) or more entities to develop the electronic driver license system. The department or entity may develop a mobile software application capable of being utilized through a person’s electronic device to access an electronic image of the person’s driver license.

(b) The department may accept donations and grants from any source to pay the expenses the department incurs in the development of the electronic driver license system.

(c) The department may take reasonable measures to publicize the electronic driver license system to potential participants.

(d) The department shall not charge a fee to participate in the electronic driver license system.

(e) In lieu of a physical driver license, a person who participates in the system may present or submit evidence of possession of a valid driver license in an electronic format, which shall be accepted as such evidence for identification and other purposes, including upon the request of a law enforcement officer or a seller of alcoholic beverages. The electronic driver license system shall allow law enforcement officers to verify the authenticity of the driver license. If a person displays the evidence in an electronic format pursuant to this subsection, the person is not consenting for a law enforcement officer to access any other contents of the electronic device.

(f) The department shall disable, suspend, or terminate a person's participation in the electronic driver license system if:

(1) The physical driver license issued to the participant has been canceled, revoked, or suspended as provided in this chapter; or

(2) The participant reports that the participant's electronic device has been lost or stolen.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.